



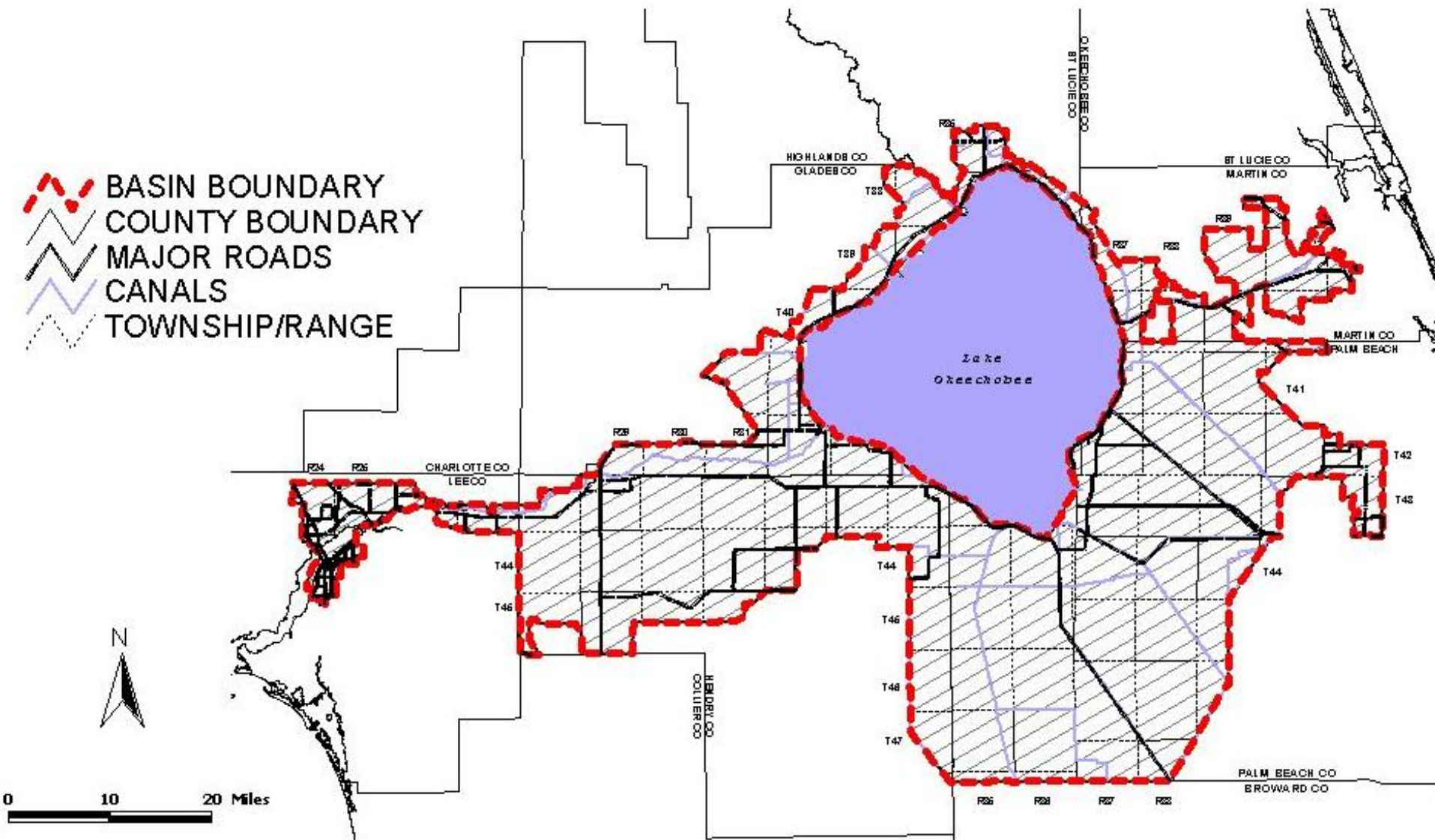
# **Lake Okeechobee Service Area (LOSA) Irrigation Basin Renewals Update**

**Jim Harmon, Water Use Division Director  
February 10, 2010**

# Irrigation Basin Renewals

<b>Upper East Coast Basins (3)</b>	<b>Oct. 30, 2004</b>
<b>Lower West Coast Basins (5)</b>	<b>June 30, 2006</b>
<b>Broward</b>	<b>Oct. 30, 2006</b>
<b>Dade / Monroe</b>	<b>Feb. 27, 2007</b>
<b>Palm Beach</b>	<b>June 30, 2007</b>
<b>Kissimmee Basins (3)</b>	<b>Oct. 30, 2008</b>
<b>Lake Okeechobee</b>	<b>Feb. 28, 2009</b>

# LOSA Permitting Basin



# LOSA Renewals

- **LOSA Basin Renewal Period**
  - **Opened on 10/01/08**
  - **Closed on 02/28/09**
- **All Permits in LOSA Basin expired after 2/28/09 unless an application was submitted**
- **Renewal applications received before 02/28/09 are eligible for 20-year permit duration**
- **Applications received after 02/28/09 are expired and become new permits (5-year duration)**



# LOSA Renewals Outreach

## Existing Permittee Renewal Outreach

- **420 renewal packets sent to existing permit holders in September 2008**
- **4 Basin Renewal workshops**
- **235 applications received to date (includes combined permits)**
  - **157 permits have been issued**
  - **78 pending applications**

# **LOSA Rule**

## **§ 3.2.1(G) of the Basis of Review**

- **“Lake Okeechobee Water Availability Rule” – Oct. 14, 2008**
- **Applies to surface water from Lake Okeechobee and integrated conveyance systems**
- **Applicant must show requested allocation will not increase surface water withdrawals above their “base condition” water use**
- **“Base condition” is maximum acreage with crop and irrigation method used between 4/1/01 and 01/01/08**

# **LOSA Rule**

## **§ 3.2.1(G) of the Basis of Review**

- **Re-allocation of unassigned, terminated, or reduced base condition water use can be restricted by Governing Board after February 28, 2010 (1 year past basin application deadline)**
- **New or increased allocations beyond that date need to prove they don't affect MFLs, restoration targets or can't implement AWS**
- **“Ledger” concept: Track volumes of terminated & reduced allocations that could be permitted to new users or the environment. Estimate unassigned volumes.**

# **Additional LOSA Outreach**

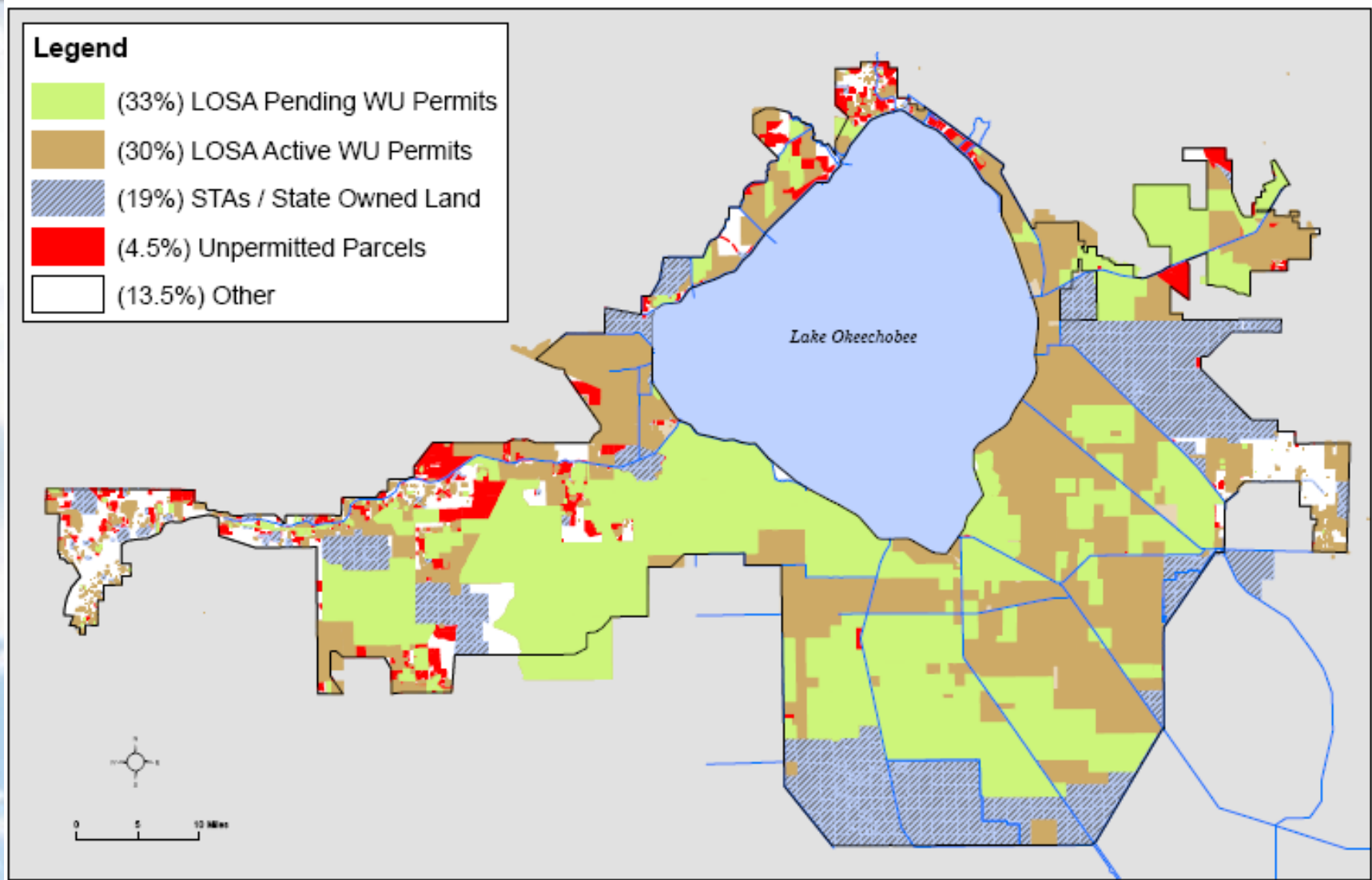
## **“No Farmer Left Behind”**

### **Efforts to Identify All Base Condition Users**

- **Review of GIS, Aerial Photography and Property Appraiser's maps**
- **Ag Team contacted landowners directly and through consultants**
- **900 letters mailed to property owners.**
- **Additional basin workshop held**
- **300 responses received to date (93 have applied or are otherwise covered by a permit)**



# LOSA Basin Renewal Status



# **Additional LOSA Outreach Efforts (cont.)**

- **District Ag Team continues to coordinate review of remaining landowner/parcel list to contact all existing “base condition” users**
- **Outreach with agencies & industry:**
  - **Florida Farm Bureau Federation**
  - **Florida Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Services**
  - **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**
  - **Everglades Agricultural Area - Environmental Protection District**

# Ongoing Considerations

- **Potential unpermitted “base condition” users continue to be identified**
- **Quantity of “unassigned” water being used (part of base condition) not yet determined**
- **Water demands for Stormwater Treatment Areas to be quantified**
- **No current pending applications for “new” (non-base condition) water from Lake Okeechobee**

# Recommendations

- **Continue to review & act upon pending applications**
- **Continue outreach efforts to identify and permit users of “base condition” water**
- **Create and implement tracking database for restricted allocation areas (i.e. “ledgers”)**
- **Update Governing Board in 6 months**
  - **Progress Report**
  - **Policy Considerations (“Ledger” water, Requests for New Uses, Enforcement)**